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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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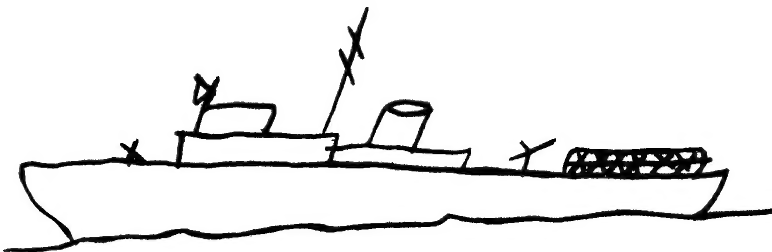
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3. At 1700 hours GMT on 22 August, a formation of seven vessels was on a northerly course off the mouth of Kola Inlet. The formation consisted of three destroyers, two minesweepers, one merchant vessel, and one depot ship. One destroyer sailed a couple of nautical miles ahead of the merchant vessel. The other two destroyers flanked the merchant vessel. The depot ship sailed astern of the merchant vessel, and astern to starboard, the minesweepers sailed in column. The destroyers looked like small destroyer escorts of the usual English type with one mast and one funnel. The minesweepers were small vessels, with clipper bows, flush decks, a gun forward of the bridge, a relatively long bridge which ended in a point with a searchlight or radar on top, a signal mast at the after edge of the bridge, a machinery housing with a low funnel abaft the bridge, a gun abaft the housing, and a low, extended grillwork structure at the stern. (See sketch No. 2.) The depot ship had a peculiar superstructure. It extended almost the entire length of the ship and had two or three stepped decks.
4. In Mezen there was no muster of the crew.
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Sketch No. 1:Vessel off Kildin IslandSketch No. 2:Minesweepers in Formation off Kola Inlet

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